

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS GLORIA MOLINA AND
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

June 26, 2007

AMENDMENT TO ITEM 56

This Board has made repeated efforts over the last several years to transform MLK-Harbor into a hospital that provides reliable, safe and effective health care services. Today, this hospital is on the precipice of closure and loss of funding by State and Federal agencies for repeatedly failing to meet minimum standards of care.

Consequently, the Board directed the CAO and DHS to develop a contingency plan to provide the community with alternative emergency and inpatient services. Given the very real jeopardy of closure, it would be prudent for the County to immediately begin contingency preparations rather than risk being ill-prepared and create a flood of emergency room patients at other hospitals. A number of steps are outlined in the contingency plan beginning with noticing a hearing required should the emergency room close, negotiating with area emergency rooms to take the ambulance patients, and making preparations for establishment of an urgent care center to operate at MLK.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Burke	_____
Knabe	_____
Antonovich	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____

By beginning this process now, it provides the most effective means to protect the vital services in the immediate term, and could result in retaining the MLK-Harbor State License so that the hospital can reopen under new management and staff in the future.

WE THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors direct the CAO, with the assistance of DHS and other appropriate departments, to immediately begin preparations to implement the MLK-Harbor Contingency Plans, and specifically:

- 1.) Immediately begin negotiations with area hospitals to absorb the ambulance and walk-in portions of Emergency Room patients that would otherwise be seen at MLK-Harbor.
- 2.) Provide for required legal notice by July 3, 2007 to initiate the 90-Day period required by State Statute prior to the closure of an Emergency Room, and initiate preparation for the completion of the Impact Statement and scheduling the necessary hearings.
- 3.) Initiate preparations for the required Beilenson hearings.
- 4.) Develop an expedited Request for Information/Qualifications process to select a new contractor to operate an Urgent Care Center at MLK-Harbor, and examine whether such a facility should operate 16 hours per day or 24 hours per day.
- 5.) Request analysis from County Counsel to clarify differences between voluntary & involuntary license suspension on the hospital, and on the necessary measures to put the hospital license in suspense so that the facility can retain the grandfather provisions it currently enjoys from State seismic and building codes.

- 6.) Develop a bilingual community education plan to inform area residents of the best available emergency, urgent, and non-urgent health care facilities during the interim period.
- 7.) Develop, in consultation with employee representatives, an effective plan to transfer MLK-Harbor employees into alternative County positions where they will have effective oversight and support.
- 8.) Initiate a dual-track strategy for the eventual reopening of MLK Hospital by: A.) beginning development of an expedited and abbreviated selection process of a provider of emergency and inpatient healthcare services at MLK, and; B.) develop plans for a fully Harbor-UCLA operated and controlled satellite hospital.
- 9.) Report back to the Board of Supervisors with the first progress report on each of these actions by July 17, 2007.

GH/JP